

is rather rare. At Port Achard it is found in abundance, and is used by the natives to make necklaces of, or strung in clusters round their waist in their war-dances. It is always found in company with *Helix merziana* and *H. cleryi*. The most northern limit of it is Sesarga or Contraietés, the southern limit is San Christoval. Specimens vary much both in colour and in size.

5. On the Genus *Chætops*. By R. B. SHARPE.

(Plate XIV.)

The genus *Chætops* was founded by Swainson in 1831, and up to the present time contains only two species, viz. *C. frenatus* and *C. aurantius*. In a collection of birds formed in Damara-land by the late Mr. C. J. Andersson, I met with a species of *Chætops* which I have every reason to believe is new to science. On taking my specimen to the British Museum I discovered another in the national collection; and my friend Mr. George Robert Gray coincided in my opinion as to its novelty. He had, indeed, noted it as new, and intended to describe it himself shortly. I have therefore very great pleasure in naming this species

CHÆTOPS GRAYI, sp. n. (Plate XIV.)

*C. valde minor: gutture et pectore superiore albidis: pectoris lateribus nigro guttatis: long. tot. 6·8 unc., rostri 0·7, alæ 2·8, caudæ 3·0, tarsi 0·85, dig. med. 0·7.*

*Hab.* in terra Damarensi, in Afr. merid.

The above short diagnosis is quite sufficient to distinguish it from either of the species hitherto known; and the following diagnostic Table indicates the specific characters of the three species:—

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|---|-----------------------|
| A. Majores: gutture nigerrimo.              |                       |
| <i>a'</i> . Abdomine intense castaneo ..... | <i>C. frenatus</i> .  |
| <i>b'</i> . Abdomine aurantiaco .....       | <i>C. aurantius</i> . |
| B. Minor: gutture albedo .....              | <i>C. grayi</i> .     |

1. CHÆTOPS FRENATUS.

*Malurus frenatus*, Temm. Pl. Col. 385 (1826).

*Chætops frenatus*, Gray, Gen. of Birds, i. p. 217 (c. 1844); Bonap. Consp. Gen. Av. i. p. 278 (1850); Layard, Birds of S. Afr. p. 125 (1867).

*Chætops burchelli*, Swains. Fauna Bor.-Am. p. 486 (1831); Classif. of Birds, ii. p. 233 (1837).

The following account of the habits of this rare bird is taken from Mr. Layard's work (*loc. cit.*):—

“This bird is, as far as I yet know, peculiar to the mountain-ranges between Caledon and Swellendam. It frequents the tops of the hills and high elevations on their stony sides, and seeks its food, consisting of insects, about stones and rocks. In habits it much resembles the Rock-Thrush, and, like it, is fond of perching upon the

summit of some conspicuous stone or ant-hill, from which it surveys the surrounding prospect, and seeks for safety by immediate flight on perceiving the approach of a foe. It progresses by a series of enormous hops, its powerful legs being well suited to this end; while its strong pointed claws enable it to traverse with ease the inclined surfaces of slippery rocks. It conceals itself readily in holes, and, if wounded, seeks such a retreat in which to die. Generally found in small families of three or four individuals."

## 2. CHÆTOPS AURANTIUS.

*Chætops aurantius*, Layard, Birds of S. Afr. p. 126 (1867).

This species was first recognized by my friend Mr. Layard; a single specimen is in the British Museum; and I agree with him in considering it to be distinct from *C. frenatus*. The following extract from his work sufficiently explains the reasons that induced him to separate the two birds.

"This handsome species was obtained by Mr. J. O'Reilly in some abundance in the mountains near Graaff-Reinet. He describes it as very wary and difficult of approach, and feeding on insects, for which it seeks among the low brushwood. It has also been received from Captain Bulger at Windvogelberg, and from Mrs. Barber."

Mr. J. O'Reilly writes as follows:—"Graaff-Reinet, January 2nd, 1863. Inhabits rocks in high mountain-ranges. Scarce; very shy and cunning, usually frequenting places assimilating to its plumage. Continually on the hop, and seldom takes wing; when it does so, flies but a short distance. Always on the watch, seldom showing much more than its head above the stones. Found about Graaff-Reinet all the year round, and in pairs. Food consists of small insects of any sort; drinks in the evening. Note, a sharp chirp, particularly when surprised. Breeds in December. Nest built of grass and rock-mosses, in crevices among rocks. Eggs three to four; green, with brown speckles."

"When this bird was sent home, Dr. Hartlaub and Mr. Selater identified it as *C. frenatus*, Temm. Since then, specimens have been obtained corresponding entirely with Temminck's figure of that bird, and I am convinced that this species is distinct. I have male, female, and young birds of each; and Mr. O'Reilly describes the nest and eggs of the orange-bodied species which Dr. Hartlaub supposes to be the young of *C. frenatus*. *C. frenatus* breeds about Caledon; and our *C. aurantius* never appears there by any chance."

## 3. CHÆTOPS GRAYI.

The specimen in the British Museum is labelled as coming from South Africa. My bird was obtained by Mr. C. J. Andersson on the Omaruru River, Damara-land, October 30th, 1866. The present species cannot be mistaken for either of the others mentioned above, its much smaller size and white throat distinguishing it at a glance. I should add that the British-Museum specimen has more black spots on the sides of the breast than my bird.